

West Coast Groundfish Fisheries

Date of Declaration/Determination: January, 2000

Location: Washington, Oregon and Northern California

Cause: Extensive sustained declines in groundfish populations due to low recruitment levels from undetermined causes.

Authority: Sec 312(a) of MSA

Appropriation: FY 2000 Emergency Supplemental, June 29, 2000--\$5 million

Assistance Provided: The funds are for the following purposes: (1) to pay compensation to individuals who have suffered a direct negative impact from the West Coast groundfish fisheries disaster; (2) to provide direct sustaining aid to such fishermen; and (3) to provide assistance to communities that are dependent on the West Coast groundfish fisheries and have suffered losses from such disaster.

A spending plan was developed in consultation with the stakeholders in Washington, Oregon, and California. The allocation percentages were based on an analysis undertaken by Congressional staff using data provided by the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission on landings, revenues, and groundfish dependency by state. The Directors of Fish and Wildlife for the three States have agreed to this breakdown. The proposed allocation of the Federal funds and the required 25 percent cost sharing are shown in the table below:

	Allocation Percentage	Federal Funds (75%) Million \$	State Matching* (25%) Million \$	Total Million \$
California	35%	\$1.750	\$0.583	\$2.333
Oregon	35%	\$1.750	\$0.583	\$2.333
Washington	30%	\$1.500	\$0.500	\$2.000
Total	100%	\$5.000	\$1.666	\$6.666

* Matching can be in cash or in-kind services

The spending plan was cleared by Congress as required and was

determined by NMFS to meet the requirements of MSA 312(a) and the Congressional language.

Oregon Program

Oregon was awarded a grant for a program to provide:

\$1,684,000 Fed and \$5,148 State--Transition Job Training Stipends to provide transition income to encourage fishers to participate in re-employment programs and thus reduce capacity and community dependence on the groundfish;

\$66,000 Fed and \$59,120 State--Industry Outreach through the hiring of a Program Coordinator to provide information on this program and on other available State and Federal services and programs that may be of use to groundfish fishermen, their families and their communities;

0 Fed, \$454,233 State--Cooperative Industry Research using fishermen and their vessels. The research and data collection activities would focus on selected groundfish stocks to improve the sustainability of these resources.

The Oregon funds were all committed as of the end of July 2001. The program built upon ongoing activities and relationships among organizations and agencies, thus reducing costs, avoiding duplication of efforts, and promoting timely provision of assistance.

Washington Program

Washington was awarded two grants:

\$1.6 million (\$1,200,000 Fed and \$400,000 State)--Washington Fishing Community Diversification. Projects may include dislocated fishermen's assistance and training.

\$400.7K (\$300,000 Fed and \$100,731 State)--Washington Industry Cooperative Research, industry at-sea data collection program, using State employees as observers on commercial vessels to collect data on bycatch in the arrowtooth flounder fishery.

California

\$1,200,000 Fed, 0 State--California Job retraining tuition Stipends
\$300,000 Federal, 0 State--partial reimbursement for Observer Related Safety Equipment

\$250,000 Federal, \$513,000 State--California Cooperative Industry Research

The exact amount spent in each area were determined in meetings with industry beginning in November 2000. The State solicited ideas on providing individual grants to fishermen for job retraining and new business opportunities, and on ways to direct emergency aid to families with incomes below the poverty level that are consistent with MSA 312(a).

For cooperative industry research on groundfish stocks, the State will contract fishermen to collect biological or fishery-related data needed for management and assessment of the fishery. This research would be done under the sponsorship of a scientific organization such as a university. Competitive grants will be issued by California Sea Grant or a similar program, with the overhead rate capped at 10-15 percent.